(b) if so, whether it will be proper to eat without cooking;

(c) the positive and negative effects of this new variety;

(d) whether the above said variety has come to the market; and

(e) whether it will be promoted for public distribution system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) As per information provided by Indian Council of Agricultural Research, parboiled form of a rice variety called Aghonibora developed by the Regional Agricultural Research Station, Titabor, Assam has been found to be fit to eat by soaking in normal water for about 40 minutes without boiling/steaming.

(c) It has the advantage that there is no loss of nutrients during cooking.

(d) and (e) Only small quantities of this variety of rice is grown by farmers and it is not being procured for Central Pool for distribution under Targetted Public Distribution System.

Shortage of sugar

3300. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of sugar in the market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there will be any effect in the open market on sugar prices due to the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No Sir. There is no shortage of sugar in the market.

(c) The price of sugar in the open market depends upon a number of factors like demand, supply, international prices and market sentiments etc. It is therefore, difficult to indicate the impact of a single factor on sugar prices.

Food Security Bill

3301. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is bringing Food Security Bill in the Parliament; and

(b) in view of the rice being provided at Rs. 2/- per kg in Orissa and other States what is the exact subsidy share of State Government and Central Government in providing subsidized rice to poor people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. Government proposes to enact the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

(b) For distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Above Poverty Line (APL) ration card holders, subsidized Central Issue Prices (CIP) communicated by Central Government to States and Union Territories are as follows:

	AAY	BPL	APL
Rice (Rs./Qtl)	300	565	830

At the above CIPs under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), subsidy, *i.e.* the difference between economic cost of rice to Food Corporation of India and these CIPs, provided by the Government of India for the allocated quantities of rice during 2009-10 is as follows:

	AAY	BPL	APL
Rice (Rs./Qtl.)	1593.71	1328.71	1063.71

Some of the States / Union Territory Governments, however, charge issue prices lower than CIPs by further subsidizing the issue prices. In such cases share of subsidy of concerned State Government would be the difference between CIP and actual issue price charged from ration card holders at fair price shops.

Delay in disposal of audit case by CMFA

3302. SHRI SHIVPRATAP SINGH:

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been delay in the disposal of audit case concerning procurement of paddy till 2006-07 by the Chhattisgarh Marketing Federation and Administration;

(b) whether the State Government has demanded additional burden of expenditure thereon to be compensated; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No. Sir. Audit in its Para No. 5.2.1 contained in its Report No 16 of 2006 regarding excess expenditure of Rs. 1047.34 crore by Chhattisgarh Government during the period 2000-05 had observed that the procurement of paddy in Chhattisgarh under the scheme of Decentralized Procurement (DCP) was much in excess of the capacity of custom milling of paddy due to the absence of project plan for procurement, storage and custom milling. Thus, the milling of paddy was delayed from 21 to 30 months, which resulted in excess overhead expenditure by the State Government, mainly on account of interest and driage loss.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.